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RCE/2700

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P.2.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Mitsunobu Ono et al.
Serial No.: 09/496,983
Filed: February 2, 2000
For: ENDOSCOPE APPARATUS

Date: April 8, 2004
Art Unit: 2613
Examiner: Shawn S. An

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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APR 16 2004

Technology Center 2600

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Sir:

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 114, of the above-identified application.

Check No. 16437 which includes the RCE fee of \$770.00 (\$770 - large entity/\$385 - small entity) and any extension/suspension fee, is enclosed herewith.

In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the under-payment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

If this communication is filed after a shortened statutory time period in said pending application had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.



If checked, please enter and consider the Amendment previously filed on March 1, 2004 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

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If checked, an Amendment and/or Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) and/or IDS are enclosed.

If checked, please consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief and Reply Brief previously submitted.

If checked, suspension of action is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (3 maximum).

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail to Addressee (mail label #EV342532153US) in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 8, 2004
CHERYL DESVIGNES

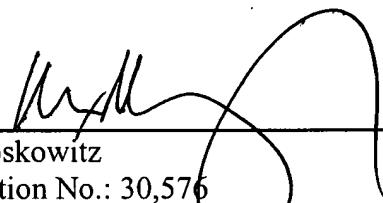
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Cheryl DesVignes
Signature

April 8, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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